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ALNWICK RURAL DISTRICT

—

**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
**AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**



1960



ALNWICK RURAL DISTRICT

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A N N U A L   R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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JOHN McCORMACK, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health,  
Area Health Office,  
Wagonway Road,  
ALNWICK.

Tel: Alnwick 2263

J.A. STAIG, M.A.P.H.I.,  
Public Health Inspector,  
Alnwick Rural District Council,  
Council Offices,  
Green Batt,  
ALNWICK.

Tel: Alnwick 2331



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1960

To the Chairman and Members of the Alnwick Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my first Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the district during the year 1960. I commenced duties as Medical Officer of Health late in the year, and thus the report relates largely to the time prior to my appointment.

I wish to pay tribute to my predecessor Dr. R. Short, who left the district in September to take up a new appointment in Edinburgh. He indeed left a legacy of goodwill which it has been my good fortune to inherit; we all wish him well in his new post.

The vital statistics for the year shows that the Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population was 12,540, which is a small increase over the previous year. There was a considerable increase in the birth rate compared to the previous year, (a figure of 19.46 per 1,000 of the population as against 16.35 in 1959).

The infant mortality rate dropped to 13.39 per 1,000 live births. However, in this, as in all statistics relating the figures from comparatively small populations, there are bound to be wide fluctuations that are not necessarily significant. Nevertheless, this low infant mortality rate is evidence of a high standard of both ante-natal and post-natal care.

There was a small increase in the total death rate, which was 12.3 per 1,000 of the population.

Disease of the heart and circulatory system was by far the commonest cause of death, in fact, accounting for 68% of all fatalities during the year. The principle single cause of death was coronary thrombosis, which accounted for one death in five. Malignant disease and accidents were responsible for 12% and 3% of deaths, respectively.

Measles was the commonest infectious disease occurring during 1960. Regrettably, there was an increase in whooping cough (from 3 cases in 1959 to 16 in 1960). This illness is now the commonest serious infectious

disease in childhood, and every effort should be made to raise the percentage of young children immunised against the disease. At present, about 70% of children have been protected against whooping cough, and I am sure that raising this level would be followed by a reduction in the incidence of the disease.

It is pleasing to note a drop in the notifications of dysentery, from 19 to 4 during the year, and there were no notifications of food poisoning.

Perusal of the Public Health Inspector's Report shows an outstanding defect in the village of Lesbury. It is estimated that, in this village which has a total number of 335 houses, no fewer than 328 have either an inadequate or no piped water supply. The early anticipated supply from the County Water Scheme from the Coquet will be of little help to Lesbury until new supply lines are installed in this village.

It appears that generally, satisfactory progress has been made in most of the sewage schemes, but the needs of Eglingham must soon receive attention, as considerable fouling and nuisance arises from the discharge of crude sewage into the stream in the centre of the village.

The gross lack of sanitary facilities and the deplorable privy middens, which are Radcliffe's misfortune to endure, are well-known, and I agree entirely with Mr. Staig's comment that it is a tragedy that this village has been declared moribund, when so many of the houses there, could be improved by using grant aided improvement schemes.

It is encouraging to note that standard grant schemes are being used throughout the district, and thus helping to improve general living standards.

Recent legislation is helping to raise the standards in the slaughter-houses, and good progress has been made to this end.

Public conveniences provided by the Council at four seaside villages have been well received, and have proved a great benefit not only to summer visitors, but to residents of the villages who are now no longer troubled by visitors asking to use their toilets.

I also agree entirely with Mr. Staig's observations concerning camping with tents. Indiscriminate camping with no pretence to hygiene or sanitation is becoming increasingly common in the coastal areas. Some campers conduct themselves admirably, but all too many succeed in bringing discredit to their numbers by their dirty habits.

In conclusion, I wish to express my sincere thanks and appreciation of the help I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, the Clerk of the Council, the Surveyor, and Mr. Staig and Mr. Lyall.

I am,  
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,



Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS

The area of the district was 92,964 acres.

The number of inhabited houses was 4,136 and the number of new houses completed during the year was 58.

The rateable value was £115,589 and the sum represented by a penny rate was £367.

The estimated mid-year population was 12,540 and this figure was taken when calculating the Birth and Death rate.

VITAL STATISTICS

| <u>Live Births</u> | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Legitimate         | 108          | 108            | 216          |
| Illegitimate       | 4            | 4              | 8            |
| Totals             | <u>112</u>   | <u>112</u>     | <u>224</u>   |

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population 17.86  
 Crude Birth Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor 19.46  
 Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births 3.57

Still Births

|              |          |          |          |
|--------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Legitimate   | 2        | 3        | 5        |
| Illegitimate | -        | -        | -        |
| Totals       | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>5</u> |

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and still births 21.83  
 Total live and still births 229

Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)

|              |          |          |          |
|--------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Legitimate   | 3        | -        | 3        |
| Illegitimate | -        | -        | -        |
| Totals       | <u>3</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>3</u> |

Infant Mortality Rates

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births               | 13.39 |
| Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births     | 13.88 |
| Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births | -     |

Neo-natal Mortality Rate

|              |          |          |          |
|--------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Legitimate   | 2        | -        | 2        |
| Illegitimate | -        | -        | -        |
| Totals       | <u>2</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>2</u> |

Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births 8.92

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate

|              |          |          |          |
|--------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Legitimate   | 2        | -        | 2        |
| Illegitimate | -        | -        | -        |
| Totals       | <u>2</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>2</u> |

Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births 8.92

Perinatal Mortality Rate

Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths 30.56

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of deaths -  
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births -

| <u>Deaths</u>                                       | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---|--------------|----------------|--------------|
|   | 97           | 69             | 166          |
| Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the population        |              |                | 13.23        |
| Crude Death Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor |              |                | 12.30        |
| Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis                        |              |                | -            |
| Deaths from Other Puerperal Causes                  |              |                | -            |
| Deaths from Cancer                                  |              |                | 21           |

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH

|   | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Tuberculosis (Respiratory)              | 1            | -              | 1            |
| Tuberculosis (Other)                    | -            | -              | -            |
| Syphilitic Disease                      | 1            | -              | 1            |
| Diphtheria                              | -            | -              | -            |
| Whooping Cough                          | -            | -              | -            |
| Meningococcal Infections                | -            | -              | -            |
| Acute Poliomyelitis                     | -            | -              | -            |
| Measles                                 | -            | -              | -            |
| Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases  | -            | -              | -            |
| Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach             | 1            | 1              | 2            |
| " " Lung, Bronchus                      | 3            | 1              | 4            |
| " " Breast                              | -            | 3              | 3            |
| " " Uterus                              | -            | 1              | 1            |
| Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms | 8            | 3              | 11           |
| Leukaemia, Aleukaemia                   | -            | -              | -            |
| Diabetes                                | -            | 2              | 2            |
| Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System  | 15           | 24             | 39           |
| Coronary Disease, Angina                | 27           | 9              | 36           |
| Hypertension with Heart Disease         | 2            | 3              | 5            |
| Other Heart Disease                     | 10           | 10             | 20           |
| Other Circulatory Disease               | 10           | 3              | 13           |
| Influenza                               | -            | -              | -            |
| Pneumonia                               | 1            | 1              | 2            |
| Bronchitis                              | 2            | -              | 2            |
| Other Diseases of Respiratory System    | 1            | 1              | 2            |
| Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum           | -            | 1              | 1            |
| Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea      | -            | -              | -            |
| Nephritis and Nephrosis                 | 2            | -              | 2            |
| Hyperplasia of Prostate                 | -            | -              | -            |
| Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion         | -            | -              | -            |
| Congenital Malformations                | 1            | -              | 1            |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases  | 7            | 4              | 11           |
| Motor Vehicle Accidents                 | 1            | -              | 1            |
| All Other Accidents                     | 2            | 1              | 3            |
| Suicide                                 | 2            | 1              | 3            |
| Homicide and Operations of War          | -            | -              | -            |
| Totals                                  | <u>97</u>    | <u>69</u>      | <u>166</u>   |

INFANT MORTALITY

| Cause of Death          | Age      | Place of Death                               |
|-------------------------|----------|--|
| Prematurity             | 50 mins. | Newcastle General Hospital.                  |
| Anencephaly             | 1 hour   | Princess Mary Maternity Hospital. Newcastle. |
| Acute broncho-pneumonia | 1 month  | Home   |

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Scarlet Fever             | -   |
| Whooping Cough            | 16  |
| Diphtheria                | -   |
| Measles                   | 206 |
| Pneumonia                 | -   |
| Cerebro-spinal Meningitis | -   |
| Enteric Fever             | -   |
| Erysipelas                | 1   |
| Acute Poliomyelitis       | -   |
| Dysentery                 | 4   |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum     | -   |
| Puerperal Pyrexia         | -   |
| Smallpox                  | -   |
| Paratyphoid Fever         | -   |
| Food Poisoning            | -   |
| Encephalitis              | -   |

TUBERCULOSIS

| Age Groups | New Cases |   |               |   | Deaths    |   |               |   |
|------------|-----------|---|---------------|---|-----------|---|---------------|---|
|            | Pulmonary |   | Non-Pulmonary |   | Pulmonary |   | Non-Pulmonary |   |
|            | M         | F | M             | F | M         | F | M             | F |
| 0-15       | -         | - | -             | - | -         | - | -             | - |
| 15-25      | -         | - | -             | - | -         | - | -             | - |
| 25-45      | 1         | - | -             | - | -         | - | -             | - |
| 45-65      | 1         | - | -             | - | 1         | - | -             | - |
| 65+        | -         | 1 | -             | - | -         | - | -             | - |
| Totals     | 2         | 1 | -             | - | 1         | - | -             | - |

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY REPORTSResultsThroat Swabs

|                                  |                       |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| B. Pyocyanus                     | 1                     |
| Coagulase Positive Staphylococci | 4                     |
| Haemolytic Streptococci          | 8                     |
| Streptococcus Viridans           | 1                     |
|                                  | <u>14</u>             |
| Negative                         | 16                    |
| Total number of specimens taken  | .. .. .. .. <u>20</u> |

Faecal Specimens

|                                 |                       |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Shigella sonnei                 | 3                     |
| Negative                        | 8                     |
| Total number of specimens taken | .. .. .. .. <u>11</u> |

IMMUNISATION

|  | Primary Immunisation |    |   |   |   |     |       | Secondary (Reinforcing) Injections |         |   |   |   |    |     |       |       |
|--|----------------------|----|---|---|---|-----|-------|------------------------------------|---------|---|---|---|----|-----|-------|-------|
|  | Under 1              | 1  | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5/9 | 10/14 | Total                              | Under 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4  | 5/9 | 10/14 | Total |
| Diphtheria                             | 1                    | -  | 1 | - | 1 | 1   | -     | 4                                  | -       | - | - | - | 51 | 28  | -     | 79    |
| Diphtheria and Whooping Cough          | 4                    | 1  | 1 | - | - | -   | -     | 6                                  | -       | - | - | - | 4  | 3   | -     | 7     |
| Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus | 155                  | 16 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1   | -     | 181                                | -       | 3 | 8 | - | 2  | 3   | 1     | 17    |
| Diphtheria and Tetanus                 | -                    | -  | - | - | - | -   | -     | -                                  | -       | - | - | - | 7  | 7   | -     | 14    |
| Totals                                 | 160                  | 17 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 2   | -     | 191                                | -       | 3 | 8 | - | 64 | 41  | 1     | 117   |

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

| District      | Number Vaccinated During Period |    |     |      |            |       | Number Re-vaccinated |   |     |      |            |       |
|---------------|---------------------------------|----|-----|------|------------|-------|----------------------|---|-----|------|------------|-------|
|               | Under 1                         | 1  | 2-4 | 5-14 | 15 or over | Total | Under 1              | 1 | 2-4 | 5-14 | 15 or over | Total |
| Alnwick U.D.  | 57                              | 3  | -   | -    | 5          | 65    | -                    | - | 1   | 2    | 12         | 15    |
| Amble U.D.    | 34                              | -  | 6   | 3    | 4          | 47    | -                    | - | -   | 1    | 2          | 3     |
| Alnwick R.D.  | 149                             | 8  | 5   | 5    | 7          | 174   | -                    | - | 1   | 2    | 18         | 21    |
| Rothbury R.D. | 65                              | 1  | 1   | 1    | 2          | 70    | -                    | - | 1   | -    | 23         | 24    |
| Totals        | 305                             | 12 | 12  | 9    | 18         | 356   | -                    | - | 3   | 5    | 55         | 63    |

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATIONNorth No. 1 and 2 Areas

| Age Group | Number having received<br>two injections |
|-----------|--|
| 1 - 15    | 13,597                                   |
| 15 - 25   | 4,556                                    |
| 25 - 40   | 1,624                                    |
| Over 40   | 179                                      |

Of these, 17,028 received their third injection since  
the advent of the scheme to 31st December, 1960.

## A N N U A L R E P O R T

1960.

To The Chairman and Members of the Council,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting for your consideration my sixth Annual Report on the general public health conditions of the District relating to environmental hygiene, and the services connected thereto for the year 1960.

WATER SUPPLY.

In accordance with the request contained in Circular 1/61 from the Ministry of Health two tables are given hereunder giving requisite figures concerning the quantity and quality of water supplies in the Alnwick Rural District.

T A B L E 1.WATER SUPPLY REVIEWALL FIGURES ESTIMATED AT 30TH DECEMBER, 1960.

| Parish        | Col.1.       | Col.2.        | Col.3.              | Col. 4.                     | Col.5.              | Col.6.               | Col.7.                         |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
|               | Total Houses | Total Popl.   | Council Into Houses | Mains Supply<br>Stand pipes | Private Into Houses | Supplies Stand-pipes | Inadequate or no piped supply. |
| Acklington    | 136          | 475           | 95                  | -                           | 4                   | -                    | 37                             |
| Alnmouth      | 238          | 700           | 216                 | -                           | -                   | -                    | 22                             |
| Craster       | 168          | 530           | 168                 | -                           | -                   | -                    | -                              |
| Denwick       | 145          | 441           | -                   | -                           | 52                  | -                    | 93                             |
| Edlingham     | 68           | 335           | -                   | -                           | 21                  | 3                    | 44                             |
| Eglingham     | 136          | 438           | 15                  | 16                          | 31                  | 5                    | 69                             |
| Embleton      | 219          | 652           | 219                 | -                           | -                   | -                    | -                              |
| Felton        | 237          | 782           | 233                 | -                           | -                   | -                    | 4                              |
| Glanton       | 93           | 275           | 82                  | -                           | -                   | -                    | 11                             |
| Hauxley       | 255          | 800           | 40                  | 215                         | -                   | -                    | -                              |
| Hedgeley      | 128          | 402           | 25                  | -                           | 36                  | 4                    | 63                             |
| Lesbury       | 335          | 1042          | 7                   | -                           | -                   | -                    | 328                            |
| Longhoughton  | 335          | 1119          | 249                 | -                           | 10                  | -                    | 96                             |
| Newton/Sea    | 103          | 350           | 65                  | -                           | 36                  | 2                    | -                              |
| Newton/Moor   | 166          | 595           | 136                 | 15                          | 2                   | -                    | 13                             |
| Rennington    | 131          | 458           | 29                  | -                           | 26                  | 3                    | 73                             |
| Shilbottle    | 545          | 1812          | 527                 | -                           | 3                   | -                    | 15                             |
| Togston       | 183          | 547           | 183                 | -                           | -                   | -                    | -                              |
| Warkworth     | 444          | 1359          | 413                 | -                           | 27                  | 3                    | 1                              |
| <b>Totals</b> | <b>4085</b>  | <b>13,112</b> | <b>2702</b>         | <b>246</b>                  | <b>248</b>          | <b>20</b>            | <b>869</b>                     |

NOTE (a) Columns 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7 - the figures are given in respect of numbers of houses

(b) The average household is 3.2 persons

10  
T A B L E 2.

WATER SAMPLING.

CLASSIFICATION OF WATER SUPPLIES SAMPLED IN 1960.

|                          | <u>Private</u> | <u>Public</u> |
|--------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Class 1. Excellent       | 10             | 41            |
| Class 2. Satisfactory    | 3              | 3             |
| Class 3. Suspicious      | 2              | 6             |
| Class 4. Unsatisfactory  | <u>17</u>      | <u>6</u>      |
| Total Number of Samples  | <u>32</u>      | <u>56</u>     |
| Total Number of Supplies | <u>13</u>      | <u>9</u>      |

All the Council's water supplies are regularly examined and sampled and the private supplies, during the past two years, have been receiving more attention regarding sampling in order to ascertain their quality in view of the progress being made with the regional distribution by the Coquet Water Board Scheme. It is hoped that this scheme will be near fruition by the end of next year as there are several villages requiring an adequate supply. Five out of the ten public supplies, which are liable to contamination, are treated by chlorination using Chloros liquid. At Swarland source there is installed a Candy Rapid Pressure filter, for the removal of iron. The total amount of water stored in balancing and service reservoirs approximates to 850,000 gallons. Hardness of water supply in varying degrees is the chief feature, as the water is mostly obtained from deep wells. Last Year's report gave the locations of the nine sources of supply. In the table concerning quality the high number of unsatisfactory samples is due to repeat sampling, before effective remedial measures were carried out. The Class IV results in the public supplies are in respect of raw water samples prior to treatment.

SEWERAGE.

Again referring to Circular 1/61 information is sought on the adequacy or otherwise of arrangements for sewerage and sewage disposal. You will recall that in 1955 a priority scheme was instituted for this area, to deal with sewerage to villages which either had not proper sewerage, or where the existing sewerage was totally inadequate. The following table gives an indication of the progress attained.

T A B L E 3.

SEWAGE PRIORITY SCHEMES

|                              | <u>Position to Date</u>           |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Togston & Acklington         | In progress                       |
| High Newton/Sea              | Completed                         |
| Embleton                     | Proposals submitted to Ministry   |
| Boulmer                      | In progress                       |
| Longhoughton (south end)     | Proposals submitted to Ministry   |
| Lesbury                      | Outline Scheme in course of prep. |
| Warkworth                    | " " " " "                         |
| Rennington                   | " " " " "                         |
| Eglingham                    | Nil                               |
| Newton/Moor                  | Outline Scheme in course of prep. |
| Dunstan                      | Nil                               |
| Glanton                      | Nil                               |
| Alnmouth                     | Outline Scheme in course of prep. |
| Radcliffe/High & Low Hauxley | " " " " "                         |

The above list was compiled in 1955 and has been the basis of which all sewerage Schemes are progressing. There are three schemes not yet implemented namely Eglingham, Dunstan and Glanton. The latter two are principally concerned with the provision of adequate sewage disposal plants.

Eglingham, in my opinion, is now requiring urgent consideration, both for sewerage and sewage disposal plant as the present discharge of crude sewage at several points in the stream flowing through the middle of the village gives rise to severe obnoxious odours and pollution of the stream. Many houses are now being modernised in this village and the resulting effluent from their respective drainage systems eventually finds outlets into the stream. Septic tanks deal with the effluent but these are not as effective as a proper sewerage scheme.

#### RODENT CONTROL.

We had a request from a farmer for treatment of an infested deep litter hen house, after <sup>an</sup> successful treatment by private firms. An investigation revealed an extremely large infestation of rodents to the deep litter house and adjacent hedgerow and burnsides. The initial difficulty of treatment was in deciding the appropriate bait, as the hens were being fed on top quality deep litter pellets. Eventually warfarin bait, with the addition of sugar, proved satisfactory and attractive to the rodents. The Preliminary treatment was carried out over a period of 10 days and the number of rats actually found amounted to 192 and presumably many more would be in the rat holes. The quantity of bait and poison used was 80 lbs. in weight. The cost of the treatment, including the follow-up test baiting amounted to £12. 11. 10. It was estimated that prior to the treatment the rats were consuming approximately four stone of pellets per night and the cost of the pellets amounted to 18/6d. Not only was this loss of revenue saved by the farmer, but also the 200 pullets, which were of good egg laying strain, were only laying to about 25% production. This figure immediately advanced to 75%.

One often hears of doubts concerning the effectiveness or efficiency of the rodent control service but this one illustration should help to allay such doubts when one bears in mind the destructiveness of the rodent population, either singly or in the mass.

#### HOUSING.

There are still approximately 450 houses without water closets, baths or satisfactory drainage. Almost one third of these are in farms and will require septic tank treatment. Of the remainder the largest proportion are in Radcliffe - approximately 120. It is a tragedy that this village has been declared moribund when so many of the houses lend themselves to straight forward Grant-aided improvement schemes. One can easily visualise the extremely slow decadence and demoralising influence on this village for the next generation or two because of the reluctance of the inhabitants to remove from a village which could, in my opinion, be resuscitated by the introduction of sanitation. Even, as a last resort, if waterclosets were installed in place of the existing horrible eyesores of privy-middens there would be a considerable benefit to the people, and to the Cleansing Service, who have the unenviable task of emptying these relicts of the past.

I will not comment on the Discretionary or Standard Grant Schemes as the figures in the statistical section gave a clear indication of the satisfactory progress and use that is being made of both schemes by owners of property.

#### CLEANSING.

The first large scale review since 1950, when the Cleansing Service came into operation, was carried out in November and December of this year so that a comprehensive report can be ultimately submitted for consideration of any impending improvements and for adjustment of schedules for a five day week. A considerable amount of time and labour was involved, for Mr. Lyall and Mr. Sisterson, who accompanied all refuse wagons on all journeys so as to ascertain times of journeys as well as the particulars of the number of premises and frequency of collections and difficulties to overcome.

In the next years Report this can be more fully dealt with but it is evident that a great part of collection time is wasted, as is inevitable in a Rural District, in travelling to villages. The variety of refuse containers is unbelievable and it is obvious that action must be taken to ensure that regulation type dustbins are installed. Two new vehicles, diesel engined, were introduced to the service in April and from the short experience so far, they are more economical than the petrol driven type they replace. There is also the fact that now we have our own supply of diesel oil there is a further saving in costs. The staff continue to give a good, reliable service, in all kinds of weather and adversities as is evident by the few complaints received at the office.

#### PROVISION OF LITTER BINS.

There are 111 litter bins distributed throughout the area in all villages, at the seaside, and in open lands frequented by visitors. They range in numbers and sizes from metal, pillar or post types (73); to small concrete shells with wire basket inserts (20); and 8 large concrete incinerators where there are large influxes of daily visitors. All are being used, particularly at week-ends, when, in certain areas, the emptying of the smaller litter bins can, with advantage, be more frequently emptied. This matter will require consideration before next summer, particularly in the coastal areas. Not all the large amount of litter is attributable solely to visitors, because many of the bins which are near camping sites are being used, in my opinion, as dustbins.

#### LICENSING OF SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

All slaughterhouse owners were fully informed of the new requirements before licensing of slaughterhouses can receive approval. This entailed a considerable amount of time spent in preliminary meetings with all owners in attendance, followed by individual inspections. These owners were then advised of Standard Requirements as embodied in the Regulations, and amended by the Council. These amendments were made because the normal throughput in all slaughterhouses in this area amounts to not more than three cattle units per day, including sheep, and more often than not, only one beast at a time is killed. After all these discussions, and agreements with the butchers concerned, the Slaughterhouse Report was submitted to the Ministry and the 1st July, 1961, recommended as being the "appointed day".

#### PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

At the beginning of the summer season four new public conveniences were opened at the seaside villages of Boulmer, Craster, Embleton and Newton by the Sea. These much needed public facilities were well used during the summer and several favourable comments were heard from visitors, particularly those who have enjoyed coming to this area for a long period of years. Apart from a few incidents to locks at Alnmouth and Warkworth, vandalism was not too evident, although the walls received the usual treatment from miscreants.

#### CARAVANNING.

The September month was devoted entirely to disentangling the intricacies of the new Caravan Sites Act and attempting to explain the procedure to site owners. Gradually some semblance of order prevailed and all site owners were requested to submit the necessary particulars so that they could be forwarded to the County Planning Authorities for permission to use the sites, before they were returned and site licences granted. No permissions were granted before the end of the year but the intervening period gave an opportunity to review the conditions which should be adopted for the respective sizes of sites. Broadly speaking all licences are subject to the conditions as specified in the Act except for the following modifications.

- (30 and over caravans) - All conditions as per Model Standards
- (15 - 29 caravans) - All conditions except hot water supply.
- (6 - 14 caravans) - Water tap with gully trap.  
Sewerage or septic tank.  
One W.C. for each sex.
- (2 - 5 caravans) - Water tap with gully trap.  
Sewerage or small septic tank.
- (single caravan) - To be in easy reach of water and drainage facilities.

CAMPING WITH TENTS.

There has been a noticeable increase in the numbers of people using tents for holiday making in this area during the past three or four years. They are erected on sites either for overnight use, weekends, weekly, or longer periods. Some of these sites are admirably run but others are simply deplorable and disgusting. A most revolting sight was to see adolescents lying in their tents, eating their meals and throwing scraps, refuse etc. immediately outside the tent. No pretence was made towards hygiene or cleanliness. These tents were situated amongst lovely sand-dune country with the result that the area was rendered virtually useless for the visitor and his family. It is a pity that the law dealing with tents was not amended at the same time as that for caravans, as one can foresee similar trouble as that which was ascribed to unorganised caravan sites. I am more concerned about "overnight camping", as distinct from the daily visit to the seaside or the country.

May I conclude by thanking Mr. Lyall and Mrs. J. Robson for their willing co-operation and help throughout the whole of the year. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to Dr. R. Short for the kindness and assistance given to me during his term of office as Medical Officer of Health for this area. I wish to record my appreciation of the assistance received from Dr. J. McCormack, Medical Officer of Health; Mr. R. Rothwell, Clerk of the Council, Mr. O.M. Farrell, Engineer and Surveyor and their staffs and finally to all members of the Council who have, on many occasions, been very helpful.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

J.A. STAIG,

Public Health Inspector.

## SECTION - 1

PUBLIC HEALTHSanitary CircumstancesTOTAL VISITS DURING YEAR RE:- TOTAL

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Houses - Housing Defects<br>(S.39,45,47,56,58,92,138)         | 72 |
| Houses - Other Nuisances<br>(S.39,50,75,83a,83b,92b,92c,92d.) | 10 |

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Sec. 39 Drainage, Cesspools, etc. | 205 |
| " 46 W.C.'s - workshops etc.      | 5   |
| " 50 Cesspools - nuisances        | 6   |
| " 58 Dangerous Buildings          | 7   |
| " 75 Dustbins                     | 11  |
| " 79 Accumulations - Noxious      | 3   |
| " 83b Verminous Premises          | 5   |
| " 87 Public Conveniences          | 81  |

STATUTORY NUISANCES

|                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Sec. 92(a) Structural Defects | 17 |
| " 92(b) Animals               | 4  |
| " 92(c) Accumulations etc.    | 2  |
| " 138 Water Supply            | 58 |

PART V

|                                      |    |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| Infectious Diseases                  | 9  |
| Sec. 259 Watercourses, ditches, etc. | 7  |
| " 268 Tents.                         | 14 |
| Caravan Sites Act.                   | 69 |

FOOD & DRUGS

|                                   |    |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| Bakehouses                        | 1  |
| Butchers                          | 21 |
| Ice Cream                         | 4  |
| Meat Preparation Rooms            | 18 |
| Public Houses, Inns, Hotels, etc. | 9  |
| Restaurants, Cafes                | 6  |
| Slaughterhouses                   | 33 |
| School Canteens                   | 3  |
| Kippering Sheds                   | 2  |
| Other Food Premises               | 6  |
| Meat Transport                    | 3  |

MEAT & FOOD INSPECTION

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Shops etc.      | 25  |
| Slaughterhouses | 749 |

MILK & DAIRIES.

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Distributors, dealers, Pasteurisers, etc. | 11 |
|---|----|

MISCELLANEOUS 26INTERVIEWS 93

TOTALFACTORIES

|                        |    |
|------------------------|----|
| Factories (Mechanical) | 10 |
| " (Non-Mechanical)     | 24 |
| Workplaces             | 1  |

PEST CONTROL

|                          |    |
|--------------------------|----|
| Local Authority Premises | 11 |
| Dwelling Houses          | 6  |
| Business Premises        | 3  |

CLEANSING SERVICE

|                      |    |
|----------------------|----|
| Collection           | 89 |
| Disposal (Tips etc.) | 84 |

HOUSING ACT 1936/57 (INSPECTIONS)

|                          |    |
|--------------------------|----|
| Houses Inspected         | 15 |
| Demolitions (Sec. 16)    | 4  |
| Closing (Sec. 18)        | 5  |
| Clearance Area (Sec. 42) | 16 |

PETROLEUM

21

BEACH SIGNS

21

STREET NAMES

17

LITTER BINS

55

PUBLIC HEALTH

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Number of Public Conveniences             | 6  |
| " " Part-time Caretakers                  | 6  |
| Moveable Dwellings - Total Licensed Sites | 13 |
| " " " - " Unlicensed Sites                | 18 |
| " " " - " New                             | 2  |

(The above figures excluded Newtown Links)

S E C T I O N - 2FOOD & DRUGSLicences or Registrations

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Slaughterhouses             | 6   |
| Slaughtermen                | 21  |
| Ice Cream Premises          | 38  |
| " " Manufacturers           | Nil |
| Milk (Special Designations) |     |
| Tuberculin Tested Raw       | 4   |
| " Pasteurised               | 19  |
| " Sterilised                | 6   |
| " Distributors              | 20  |

## FOOD &amp; DRUGS

Food Inspection

Sec. 9 Canned Goods - 402 Tins

Meat - 38 Tins

Milk - 110 Tins

## SECTION - 3.

## HOUSING

General

Total No. of Houses in District - 4136

New Houses (1960) - Local Authority 51

" " " - Other Housing Authorities

" " " - Private Persons 7

Total number of Council houses to date 805

Housing Act 1936/57.

Survey of Houses for period ending December, 1960.

|                   | Action during<br>1960 |         |           | Total Remaining |         |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---------|-----------|-----------------|---------|
|                   | Demolished            | Vacated | Confirmed | Occupied        | Vacated |
| Demolition Orders | 1                     | 4       | 6         | 9               | 7       |
| Closing Orders    | -                     | 2       | -         | 1               | 3       |
| Undertakings      | -                     | -       | 6         | 5               | 23      |
| Clearance Orders  | 6                     | -       | -         | 40              | 56      |
| Informal          | -                     | -       | -         | 1               | 4       |
| Totals            | 7                     | 6       | 12        | 56              | 93      |

Repairs to Houses - By Informal Action

48 Houses

Improvement Grants 1949.

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| (1) Applications submitted to L.A. (1960)           | 44  |
| (2) Applications rejected                           | 1   |
| (3) Applications approved                           | 41  |
| (4) Total number approved since inception of scheme | 261 |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| (5) Hill Farming & Livestock Rearings Act (1946/54 for the year 1960.) | Nil |
|--|-----|

Standard Grants 1960.

|                                    |    |
|------------------------------------|----|
| No. of Houses grant aided          | 20 |
| " " " provided with Bath or Shower | 18 |
| " " " " Wash Hand Basin            | 19 |
| " " " " Hot Water Supply           | 12 |
| " " " " Water Closet               | 14 |
| " " " " Food Store                 | 11 |

S E C T I O N - 4.FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959.

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

| Premises<br>(1)   | Number<br>on<br>Register<br>(2) | Inspections<br>(3) | Written<br>Notices<br>(4) | Occupiers<br>prosecuted<br>(5) |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| (1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.....                       | 12                              | 10                 | Nil                       | Nil                            |
| (2) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.....                    | 43                              | 24                 | Nil                       | Nil                            |
| (3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)..... | 1                               | 1                  | Nil                       | Nil                            |
| Total   | 58                              | 35                 | Nil                       | Nil                            |

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found

| Particulars<br>(1)   | Number of cases in which defects were found |                 |                                     |                         | Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted<br>(6) |
|--|---|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
|  | Found<br>(2)                                | Remedied<br>(3) | Referred<br>To H.M.<br>Insp.<br>(4) | By H.M.<br>Insp.<br>(5) |  |
| Want of cleanliness (S.1)  | 1   | 1               | Nil                                 | Nil                     | Nil  |
| Overcrowding (S.2).....  | Nil   | Nil             | Nil                                 | Nil                     | Nil  |
| Unreasonable temperature(S.3).....   | Nil   | Nil             | Nil                                 | Nil                     | Nil  |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4).....  | Nil   | Nil             | Nil                                 | Nil                     | Nil  |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6).....                                    | Nil   | Nil             | Nil                                 | Nil                     | Nil  |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)  |   |                 |                                     |                         |  |
| (a) Insufficient.....  | Nil   | Nil             | Nil                                 | Nil                     | Nil  |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective.....   | Nil   | 1               | Nil                                 | 1                       | Nil  |
| (c) Not separate for sexes.....  | Nil   | Nil             | Nil                                 | Nil                     | Nil  |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences Relating to out-work) | Nil   | Nil             | Nil                                 | Nil                     | Nil  |
| Total  | 1   | 2               | Nil                                 | 1                       | Nil  |

## SECTION - 5.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949REPORT FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1960.

|   | (1)<br>Local<br>Authority | (2)<br>Dwelling<br>Houses<br>(inc.<br>Council<br>Houses) | (3)<br>All other<br>Business<br>Premises | (4)<br>Total<br>of<br>Columns<br>(1), (2)<br>& (3) | (5)<br>Agricultural |
|---|---------------------------|--|--|--|---------------------|
| 1. No. of Properties                                  | 39                        | 3323   | 350                                      | 3712   | 813                 |
| 2. No. of Properties<br>inspected                     |                           |  |  |  |                     |
| (a) Notification                                      | -                         | 38   | 16                                       | 54   | 1                   |
| (b) Survey  | 39                        | 62   | 116                                      | 217  | 219                 |
| (c) Otherwise   | -                         | 12   | 10                                       | 21   | 6                   |
| 3. Total Inspections<br>& Re-Inspections              | 120                       | 180  | 142                                      | 442  | 240                 |
| 4. No. of Properties<br>Infested                      |                           |  |  |  |                     |
| (a) Major   | 2                         | 3  | 4  | 9  | 17                  |
| Minor   | 28                        | 71   | 12                                       | 111  | 43                  |
| (b) Major   | -                         | Nil  | 1  | 1  | -                   |
| Minor   | -                         | 20   | 3  | 23   | 7                   |
| 5. No. of Infested<br>Properties treated<br>by L.A.'s | 30                        | 94   | 16                                       | 140  | 2                   |
| 6. Total Treatments<br>& Re-Treatments                | 75                        | 126  | 16                                       | 217  | 2                   |
| 7. No. of Section 4<br>Notices                        | Nil                       | Nil  | Nil                                      | Nil  | Nil                 |
| 8. No. of "Block"<br>Controls                         | 44                        |  |  |  |                     |

## SECTION - 6.

Cleansing Service

|                        |     |     |     |    |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Staff                  | ... | ... | ... | 9  |
| Vehicles (side loading |     |     |     |    |
| 7 c. yds.              |     |     |     | 5  |
| Districts              | ... | ... |     | 4  |
| Refuse Tips            | ... | ... |     | 10 |

## SECTION - 7.

MEAT

|   | Cattle<br>Excluding<br>Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep<br>&<br>Lambs | Pigs | Horses |
|---|-----------------------------|------|--------|---------------------|------|--------|
| Number Killed (if known)  | 762                         | 2    | 4      | 2,824               | 591  | Nil    |
| Number Inspected  | 762                         | 2    | 4      | 2,769               | 591  | Nil    |
| <u>All diseases except</u><br><u>Tuberculosis &amp; Cysticerci</u><br><u>Whole carcases condemned</u> | Nil                         | Nil  | Nil    | 1                   | Nil  | Nil    |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned  | 221                         | Nil  | Nil    | 54                  | 20   | Nil    |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than cysticerci & Tuberculosis         | 29%                         | Nil  | Nil    | 2%                  | 3.5% | Nil    |
| <u>Tuberculosis only</u><br><u>Whole carcases condemned</u>   | Nil                         | Nil  | Nil    | Nil                 | Nil  | Nil    |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned  | Nil                         | Nil  | Nil    | Nil                 | 5    | Nil    |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis   | Nil                         | Nil  | Nil    | Nil                 | 0.8% | Nil    |
| Cysticercosis - Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned                                    | 6                           | Nil  | Nil    | Nil                 | Nil  | Nil    |
| Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration  | 3                           |      |        |                     |      |        |
| Generalised and Totally Condemned   | Nil                         |      |        |                     |      |        |

20  
MEAT CONDEMNED DURING 1960.

| Disease or Condition  | Whole Carcasses            |                       |                  |                            | Part Carcasses             |                       |                  |                            | Weight<br>in lbs |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
|                       | C<br>a<br>t<br>t<br>l<br>e | S<br>h<br>e<br>e<br>p | P<br>i<br>g<br>s | C<br>a<br>l<br>v<br>e<br>s | C<br>a<br>t<br>t<br>l<br>e | S<br>h<br>e<br>e<br>p | P<br>i<br>g<br>s | C<br>a<br>l<br>v<br>e<br>s |                  |
| Abscesses             |                            |                       |                  |                            | 7                          |                       |                  |                            | 94               |
| Actinomycosis         |                            |                       |                  |                            | 4                          |                       |                  |                            | 84               |
| Cirrhosis             |                            |                       |                  |                            | 36                         |                       |                  |                            | 313              |
| Cyst. Bovis           |                            |                       |                  |                            | 6                          |                       |                  |                            | 159              |
| Fascioliasis          |                            |                       |                  |                            | 159                        |                       |                  |                            | 722              |
| Fatty Degeneration    |                            |                       |                  |                            | 1                          |                       |                  |                            | 10               |
| Injuries and Bruising |                            |                       |                  |                            | 3                          |                       |                  |                            | 330              |
| Parasites             |                            |                       |                  |                            |                            | 46                    |                  |                            | 121              |
| Pleurisy              |                            |                       |                  |                            | 5                          |                       | 20               |                            | 76               |
| Pneumonia             |                            | 1                     |                  |                            |                            | 8                     |                  |                            | 146              |
| Tuberculosis          |                            |                       |                  |                            |                            |                       | 5                |                            | 92               |
| Total                 | -                          | 1                     | -                | -                          | 221                        | 54                    | 25               | -                          | 2147             |

ANIMALS KILLED, AND PERCENTAGE AFFECTED WITH  
TUBERCULOSIS, CYSTICERCI AND OTHER  
DISEASES  
YEARS 1957 TO 1960.

|   | Cattle<br>Excluding<br>Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep<br>and<br>Lambs | Pigs |
|---|-----------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------|------|
| Number killed 1957  | 986                         | -    | 48     | 2365                  | 396  |
| " " 1958  | 990                         | 1    | 30     | 2822                  | 569  |
| " " 1959  | 990                         | 1    | 27     | 2713                  | 521  |
| " " 1960  | 762                         | 2    | 4      | 2824                  | 591  |
| Number Inspected  |                             |      |        |                       |      |
| 1957  | 883                         | -    | 23     | 1885                  | 295  |
| " " 1958  | 990                         | 1    | 30     | 2613                  | 569  |
| " " 1959  | 990                         | 1    | 27     | 2559                  | 521  |
| " " 1960  | 762                         | 2    | 4      | 2769                  | 591  |
| Percentage of<br>the Number<br>Inspected                                  |                             |      |        |                       |      |
| 1957  | 28.                         | -    | 4.4    | .8                    | 6.7  |
| Affected with<br>diseases other<br>than Tuberc-                           | 25.6                        | -    | .3     | .7                    | 10.1 |
| 1959  | 25.1                        | -    | -      | .3                    | 19.  |
| 1960  | 29.                         | -    | -      | ?.                    | 3.5  |
| Percentage of<br>the number<br>inspected<br>affected with<br>Tuberculosis | 1.5                         | -    | -      | -                     | .3   |
| 1958  | 1.5                         | -    | -      | -                     | 3.   |
| 1959  | 1.5                         | -    | -      | -                     | 2.6  |
| 1960  | -                           | -    | -      | -                     | .8   |
| Cysticercosis   |                             |      |        |                       |      |
| Carcases of<br>which some<br>part or<br>organ<br>was condemned            | .68                         | -    | -      | -                     | -    |
| 1957  | .6                          | -    | -      | -                     | -    |
| 1958  | .8                          | -    | -      | -                     | -    |
| 1959  | .78                         | -    | -      | -                     | -    |
| 1960  |                             |      |        |                       |      |

## SECTION - 8

STREET NAMING OR NUMBERINGVillages not commenced

|               |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Acklington    | Lesbury             |
| Boulmer       | Newton (High & Low) |
| Christon Bank | Powburn             |
| Denwick       | South Charlton      |
| Edlingham     | North Charlton      |
| Eglingham     |                     |
| Embleton      |                     |

BEACH SIGNS & LIFEBOOYS

|                  |     |    |
|------------------|-----|----|
| No. of Signs     | ... | 11 |
| No. of Lifebuoys | ... | 14 |

PETROLEUM REGULATIONS

|                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| No. of Licensed Installations | 87 |
| No. of New Licences           | 1  |

## SECTION - 9.

WATER SAMPLINGClassification of Supplies

|                          |                | <u>Private<br/>Supplies</u> | <u>Public<br/>Supplies</u> |
|--------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Class 1.                 | Excellent      | 10                          | 41                         |
| Class 2.                 | Satisfactory   | 3                           | 3                          |
| Class 3.                 | Suspicious     | 2                           | 6                          |
| Class 4.                 | Unsatisfactory | 17                          | 6                          |
| Total number of samples  |                | 32                          | 56                         |
| Total number of supplies |                | 13                          | 9                          |





